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## RECENT LITERATURE.

**Hyatt's Insects.**<sup>1</sup>—The small volume before us is the eighth in the series of Guides for Science-Teaching issued under the auspices of the Boston Society of Natural History. The series has been rather unequal; some of the numbers, noticeably that dealing with the Crustacea and spiders, have fallen below what such guides should be; but the present volume has gone as far the other way, and makes an admirable introduction to the study of entomology. With this and the still unfinished work of Professor Comstock, already noticed in these pages, the beginning students of insects can enter upon their work and fit themselves to take up the more technical papers.

The treatment of the subject is after the following outline: The grasshopper is made the type of the group of Hexapods, and outlines are given to aid the student in working out for himself the external and internal anatomy. Next follows a chapter upon the principles underlying classification, and then come the characteristics of the fourteen orders which, following Brauer, the authors have recognized. There are many things in this arrangement which please us, but we cannot agree to it in all particulars. Larval stages are an introduced feature in the Hexapod phylum, and those who rely wholly upon them as guides to the affinities and relationships are apt to go astray. Thus the facts hardly seem to warrant the close association of Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, and Diptera, with the Hymenoptera occupying a position intermediate between the other two; nor can we agree that the May flies are, the Thysanura excepted, the lowest of the Hexapods. There are also other features of detail where we think the authors are at fault, such as the statement (p. 18) that the cerci are not true appendages. We could wish that the authors had availed themselves more of the admirable summary of Hexapod anatomy given in Lang's "*Vergleichende Anatomie.*" On page 12 Professor Hyatt says that he is "disposed to uphold a modified form of the Cuvierian classification. The old names, Radiata, Mollusca, and Articulata, like the name Vertebrata, represent obvious relations and a legitimate grouping of forms." We had thought that the heterogeneous character of the old group Radiata had long ago been demonstrated; while if Professor Hyatt wishes to include metameric forms under the name

<sup>1</sup> Guides for Science-Teaching, No. VIII. Insecta. By Alpheus Hyatt and J. M. Arms. 16mo, pp. xxiii. + 300. Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1890.

Articulata, he will be obliged to throw out the Plathelminthes and Nematoid forms, while, on the other hand, his group of Vertebrates will disappear, along with "Vermes" (= Annelids) and Arthropods, in the group for which others have adopted the term Metamerata.

These are, however, but minor points. The good features of the book are many, and Professor Hyatt is to be congratulated in the able coadjutor (or coadjutrix) he has found in Miss Arms. Many of the 223 illustrations are fresh, but there are also some of the old acquaintances. We think the book the best of its kind yet issued, but we cannot help wishing that we had some really first-class text-book of entomology which would attack the subject from every side. For points of structure the student has still to be referred to Newport's article "Insecta" in Todd's "Encyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology," while for the systematic aspect there is as yet nothing to replace Gerstäcker's account in Carus and Gerstäcker's "Handbuch der Zoologie," or that given in Ludwig's edition of Leunis's "Synopsis."—J. S. K.